# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1963
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2017
Water Crisis and Rain Water Harvesting
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**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government with regard to preventing water crisis and also to have rain water harvesting all over the country?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

Steps taken by the Government to prevent water crisis and promote rain water harvesting are as follows:

â€¢ The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/UTs including Rajasthan and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for adoption.

â€¢ Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs.79,178 crores to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water.

â€¢ Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under "The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the Country including 35 in Rajasthan for the purpose of regulation of ground water.

â€¢ CGWA has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rainwater harvesting. 30 States/UTs including Rajasthan have made rainwater harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.

â€¢ This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.

â€¢ CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM) during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation. So far 6.31 lakh sq.km has been covered under NAQUIM in the entire country including 1.43 lakh sq.km in Rajasthan.

â€¢ The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM), titled "Mission Water Conservation" to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The Framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Emplyoment Gandhi Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programmes/schemes are water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, land development, Command Area Development & Watershed Management.

â€¢ Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States covering an area of about 39.07 million ha. under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. The major activities taken up under the WDC-PMKSY, inter-alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line afforestation, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, horticulture, and pasture development etc.

â€¢ The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has suggested all States to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. For creating such sustainability structures, 10 % of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) funds are provided to the States.

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